

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03730 292144Z

17

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 /031 W

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R 291618Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7161

INFO USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3730

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SY US

SUBJ: SYRIAN REPORT ON USG WITHDRAWAL POSITION

1. RELIABLE LEBANESE JOURNALIST WITH PROVEN CONTACTS
IN SYRIAN MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOLD EMBOFF
MARCH 28 HE HAD HEARD BY PHONE FROM THESE CONTACTS
OF REPORT RECEIVED BY SYRIAN FONMIN FROM MOSCOW CONCERNING
USG POSITION ON ISRAELI-SYRIAN PROBLEM. REPORT ALLEGED
THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD TOLD HIS SOVIET
INTERLOCUTERS THAT EVEN IN CONTEXT OF FINAL
SETTLEMENT, ISRAEL COULD NOT BE EXPECTED WITHDRAW
FROM HIGH GROUND OVERLOOKING KUNEITRA AND WOULD, OF
COURSE, CONTINUE HOLD HEIGHTS OVERLOOKING ISRAEL
PROPER. THIS WAS REPORTEDLY INTERPRETED BY SYRIANS
AS BEING FORMAL POSITION OF USG.

2. EMBOFF SAID WE HAVE NO RPT NO REPORTS OF WHAT
SECRETARY KISSINGER MAY HAVE SAID DURING MOSCOW
TRIP BUT THAT SYRIAN GOVT IN DIRECT CONTACT
WITH USG AND THEREFORE NOT DEPENDENT UPON STRANGE DISPATCHES
FROM MOSCOW IN ORDER ASCERTAIN USG POSITION ON ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL.

3. COMMENT: THIS CONVERSATION REPORTED SIMPLY AS
INDICATOR OF POSSIBLE TROUBLE-MAKING OR MISUNDERSTANDING

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ON PART OF OFFICIALS WITHIN SYRIAN FONMIN OR

SYRIAN EMBASSY MOSCOW OR POSSIBLY SOVIET SOURCES FROM
WHOM REPORT ALLEGED USG POSITION MIGHT HAVE ORIGINATED.
LEBANESE SOURCE HAS SUFFICIENTLY RELIABLE
RECORD ON SYRIAN AFFAIRS THAT IT VERY LIKELY HE DID
RPT DID RECEIVE REPORT SUCH AS HE DESCRIBED TO EMBOFF.
HE ALSO CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN SIMILAR REPORT FILED BY AFP
OUT OF MOSCOW.
GODLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MUTUAL FORCE WITHDRAWALS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BEIRUT03730
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740070-0530
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974035/aaaaaejc.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN REPORT ON USG WITHDRAWAL POSITION
TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005